

Major initiatives

■ Recreational Airstrip Symposium

The Recreational Airstrip Symposium, a series of three workshops held in October 2004, gathered transportation officials, pilots, forest managers, outfitters and other stakeholders to help shape the future of how the airstrips are used, managed, maintained and improved.

The more than 40 recreational-use airstrips are gems among Idaho's transportation system, and they represent a unique asset for which planning is necessary. Defining a strategy for the future of these airstrips was the central purpose of the workshops.

The symposium was held in association with the Idaho Aviation Association, Idaho Commerce and Labor, Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association, ITD's Division of Aeronautics and USDA Forest Service.



Idaho is home to more than 40 recreational airstrips that provide critical access to remote regions.

■ Aviation System Plan Update

Updating the Idaho Aviation System Plan is a priority for the division and efforts to do so will continue into 2005.

Airport system planning helps the division examine the performance of Idaho's entire aviation system, and helps staff understand the interrelationship of airports within the system. Establishing a viable, balanced and integrated system of airports is the ultimate result of the process. The outcome provides vital input into the aviation component of a comprehensive state transportation plan.

The effort involves examining the interaction of the airports with the aviation user requirements, economy, population and surface transportation. The final product results in the identification, preservation and enhancement of an aviation system poised to meet current and future demand.



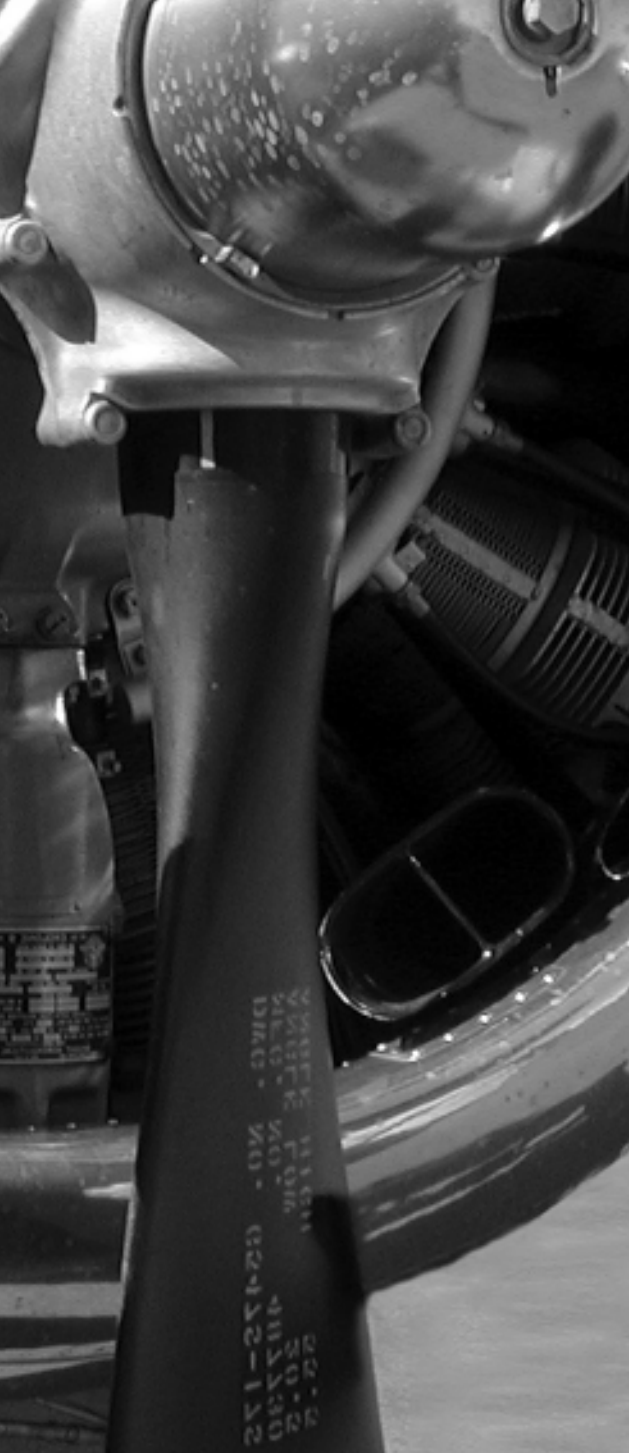
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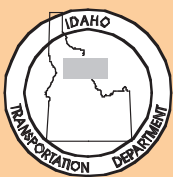
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IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



2004

AERONAUTICS REPORT

Mission

The Division of Aeronautics serves to provide the highest quality, effective, efficient and safe aviation system for all users of aviation services, visiting or residing in Idaho. To this end, the division plans and implements necessary and desired products, programs, services, and projects to develop, encourage and foster an outstanding aviation system that meets the current and future requirements of a growing and diverse Idaho aviation public.

Focus Areas

- Airport system development
 - Airport grants
 - Non-primary entitlements
 - Maintenance operations
 - Hazard determination
- Aviation safety
 - Annual fly-in workshops
 - Publications
 - Pilot clinics
- Aviation education
 - Annual Aviation Festival
 - Publications
 - Teacher/student workshops

Targeted Performance Standards

1. **Emphasis area:** Facility improvement

Goal: To meet or exceed Idaho's standards on airports.

Targeted performance standard: Increase the overall statewide average airport pavement condition index to 81.

Measure: 78 condition index

Properly designed airports provide better traveling conditions, safer operating conditions and increase air commerce activities. One critical element for any airport is the safety and condition of runway pavement. The division assists public airports in meeting design standards to ensure safe airport operations.

Through Idaho's Airport Improvement Program, funds make their way to local airports from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and ITD's Division of Aeronautics. The grant program supports security improvements, basic maintenance, improvement projects and most often, pavement rehabilitation.

Division staff also lends its technical expertise for airport improvements. Through staff efforts, 55 percent of public airports meet or exceed runway length and safety area standards. Twenty percent of Idaho's airports have now adopted height restriction and land-use zoning ordinances, reflecting a partnership with local community planning efforts. The division is continuing its work to increase these percentages.

2. **Emphasis Area:** Safety

Goal: To improve safety on state-owned aviation facilities. Improving aviation safety reduces the number of general aviation crashes.

Targeted performance standard: Train a minimum of 170 pilots and flight instructors annually at aviation safety-related seminars.

Measure: 160 trainees

The Division of Aeronautics incorporates safety and pilot education into nearly every facet of its work. Safety education is a priority and is reflected through an aggressive schedule of learning opportunities for pilots, aviation enthusiasts and the general public. Participation in division-sponsored safety and education events continues to grow, reaching more than 500 attendees in 2004, and is expected to increase annually.

Safety-related improvements on state-owned and -managed aviation facilities are a key factor in reducing the aviation accident rate. The division has committed to applying a minimum of 25 percent of the output of the Airport Maintenance Section to safety improvements.

3. **Emphasis Area:** Efficiency

Goal: To improve operational processes and efficiency by streamlining day-to-day business operations and increasing internal and external customer satisfaction.

Targeted performance standard: Develop an annual Idaho aviation operations and safety report.

Measure: Draft complete

Customer satisfaction is one method used to measure the responsiveness and efficiency of the division.

Through a combination of increased public involvement and continuous annual reporting, the division can identify and consider processes that lead to operational efficiency.

Increasing involvement from the public and other government agencies helps determine the division's course of action on various initiatives. This involvement provides the opportunity for customers to offer input and deepen their understanding about the challenges of improving Idaho's air transportation system.

An annual aviation operations and safety report will assist in identifying major initiatives. The reporting process requires each section within the Division of Aeronautics to consider and evaluate progress on workflow and to identify project accomplishments.

4. **Emphasis area:** Efficiency

Goal: To improve operational processes and efficiency by streamlining day-to-day business operations and increasing internal and external customer satisfaction.

Targeted performance standard: Increase the number of eligible aircraft registered to 82 percent.

Measure: 79 percent registered

Aircraft registrations are a means to fund upkeep and improvements to the airports used by those aircraft. For this reason the Division strives to use processes that will insure full participation by aircraft owners.

Fees collected from aircraft registrations support safety upgrades, equipment purchases and capital investments. Owner/pilots directly benefit by registering their aircraft – from updates on technical issues and safety education to safer airstrips for take-off and landing and more efficient identification of aircraft in the event of an emergency search and rescue operation.



Safety education for pilots, students and aviation enthusiasts is offered throughout the year.

Highlights

■ **Idaho Aviation Festival:** The annual Aviation Festival increases public awareness of aviation's contribution to Idaho's economy; offers educational opportunities for teachers and students; and provides a forum for the annual recertification of charter pilots and aircraft mechanics.

■ **McCall Family Fly-In:** The annual fly-in has been organized to bring the general pilot population to an event that focuses on safety education.

■ **ACE Academy:** This annual event is focused on exposing middle and high school students to potential careers in the aerospace industry.

■ **Rudder Flutter:** Published five times a year, this publication provides readers in the aviation community with information on aviation safety, division projects and initiatives, and events.